

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NORA ANZIK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding volunteer and community member from my district. Nora Anzik is the recipient of this year's Volunteer of the Year Award given by TREC, the Therapeutic Riding and Education Center of Pueblo, Colorado. Nora's hard work helps children with disabilities experience the joy of riding horses, something they could not accomplish without her.

Nora's enthusiasm, patience, and effectiveness became obvious in her first week at TREC. She began her work with a young autistic boy named Steven. Steven was not comfortable with some of the aspects of riding, and it was Susan's persuasive, positive attitude that helped him to adjust. Her work with Steven is just one example of the compassion she has for those in need. Nora continues to work with Steven and numerous other children, becoming a role model in many of their lives. She is a wonderful teacher, who knows how to get through to children with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, great Americans like Nora, who volunteer their time, have helped to make our country great. I am proud of her accomplishments and it gives me great joy to inform this body of Congress and this nation of her outstanding community service. Thank you, Nora, for your hard work and dedication. Your commitment and involvement in the Pueblo community will not be forgotten.

POLITICAL TENSIONS IN BURMA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I risk today to express my deepest concerns about the ongoing political problems in Burma and the recent arrest of opposition leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi. I am deeply troubled by the military regime's stifling of political life. This equals a brutal, unacceptable situation lacking democratic essentials. Obviously, the military junta tries to block and prevent democratic change for which nobel peace prize laureate Suu Kyi's life and work stand for.

With the detention of Suu Kyi and nineteen members of her National League for Democracy party last Friday, the political tensions are on the rise again. The NLD headquarters and universities were also closed. It is common practice for the junta to crash NLD meetings by sending bullies to intimidate pro-democracy advocates. Only last year Suu Kyi was released from custody while at the same time the junta arrested many NLD party members. The military regime allowed her to travel freely throughout the country and organize her party but during her last two trips she met harassment and obstruction. This clearly indicates that hope for democratic reform, which was stirred by Suu Kyi's release, has suffered a major setback. The illegitimate government

further promised to engage in a dialogue with the NLD, supervised by the United Nations. Sadly, the talks failed to make significant progress.

Deficits are not only visible in the political arena but also in the social and economic field. Long-term economic mismanagement under authoritarian rule created severe economic and social ills. Due to the government's human rights' abuses and the unfriendly business environment, international companies have left the country. Inflation is rampant, probably as high as fifty percent. The social sector is in dire straits with every third child suffering from malnutrition. Yet 40 percent of the budget is spent for defense.

The problems in Burma are grave and wide-reaching. There's a democratic movement that deserves and needs our support, there's a military regime that needs to realize that its only way out of Burma's crisis is to fully respect democracy and human rights. This regime must accept the results of the 1990 election which were won by Aung Sang Suu Kyi. To achieve these goals, I have cosponsored the "Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003," which—amongst other provisions—prohibits imports from Burma in order to press the regime to adapt full-fledged democratic reforms and supports democracy activists within Burma.

A BILL TO RESTORE EQUITY IN THE TAXATION OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will restore equity in the taxation of political campaign committees.

Currently, the tax code treats income in federal political campaign committees the same as corporate income. This allows candidates for congressional office to pay campaign taxes on a graduated rate scale, offering us significant tax benefits.

Specifically, we pay a 15 percent tax rate on the first \$50,000 of income in our campaign accounts. Income in our accounts between \$50,001 and \$75,000 is taxed at 25 percent, and income between \$75,001 and \$10 million is taxed at 34 percent. Only when our campaign accounts boast over \$10 million are we subjected to a 35 percent tax rate.

Mr. Speaker, each of us in this chamber can attest to the ridiculously high amount of money that we must raise in order to run a formidable campaign for Congress. However, I doubt that many of us actually reach that \$10 million threshold and pay a 35 percent tax rate on the money in our campaign accounts.

Unfortunately, our colleagues in state legislatures across the country aren't as fortunate. As Texas State Senator Jon Lindsay pointed out to us in the Texas Delegation, every dollar in his campaign account is taxed at a flat 35 percent rate. In fact, only candidates for Congress are able to enjoy this graduated tax schedule.

To correct this inequity in our tax code, I am introducing legislation today to amend the Internal Revenue Code and mandate that state

political campaign committees are taxed in the same manner as our federal campaign committees.

Joining me in this effort to ensure that the tax code treats our state legislators fairly is the entire Democratic wing of the Texas delegation: Representative CHRIS BELL, Representative LLOYD DOGGETT, Representative CHET EDWARDS, Representative MARTIN FROST, Representative CHARLES GONZALEZ, Representative RALPH HALL, Representative RUBEN HINOJOSA, Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Representative NICK LAMPSON, Representative SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, Representative SILVESTRE REYES, Representative CIRO RODRIGUEZ, Representative MAX SANDLIN, Representative CHARLES STENHOLM, and Representative JIM TURNER.

My thanks goes out to each of them for their support, as well as to Senator Lindsay for bringing this matter to our attention. I urge my fellow colleagues to co-sponsor this bill and show their support for the state legislators who work hard representing them back home.

RECOGNITION OF BRADEN CHRISTIAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Braden Christian of Harrisburg, Illinois in honor of his participation in the 76th annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee.

Braden was the winner of the Tri-State Spelling Bee held at Bosse High School in Evansville, Illinois on March 15 earlier this year. His win secured him an invitation to the National Spelling Bee.

Today, I would like to congratulate Braden on his victory and wish him luck in the National Competition.

The Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee is held annually and features 251 students from grades five through eight from all over the country. Students are quizzed on a large selection of words from the Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary. I would like to commend Braden for his hard work and dedication to pursuing his goal of winning the National Title.

In closing, I would like to praise Braden for all of his achievements and also thank his parents and teachers who have nurtured and inspired Braden's desire for excellence and love of knowledge. He is a truly wonderful young man and I look forward to hearing of his future accomplishments. God Bless.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYNN WELDON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a longtime servant of Alamosa, Colorado, Lynn Weldon. Lynn has served the Alamosa City Council diligently for almost twenty years. In recognition